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Message Text

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15
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SS-20 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

ACDA-19 AID-20 DRC-01 DPW-01 OMB-01 /168 W
---------- 104562
O R 151100Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8057
INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 17943

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, VS
SUBJ: ICCS: AIR SERVICES TIMETABLE

REF: SAIGON 17889

1. BARNHISEL CALLED EMBOFF OCT 15 TO REPORT HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY DIRGEN NUR TO PREPARE OFFICIAL AIR AMERICA LETTER IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS RAISED AT ICCS SESSION EARLIER TODAY.

2. NUR ASKED WHETHER AIR AMERICA LETTER OF OCT 12 (REFTEL) MEANT CANCELLATION OF AIR SERVICES AT CLOSE OF BUSINESS FRIDAY, DURING THE DAY SOMETIME, OR AT BEGINNING OF THE DAY. BARNHISEL SAID HE HAD ANSWERED NUR THAT LETTER INTENDED AS TERMINATION OF SERVICES AT CLOSE OF BUSINESS, BUT NUR ASKED FOR IT IN WRITING.

3. NUR SAID THAT AT SESSION CONTINGENCY PLANS WERE DEVELOPED FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ICCS TEAMS FROM REMOTE SITES TO REGIONAL SITES BEGINNING OCT 18. HE ASKED IF, BECAUSE OF WEATHER CONDITIONS
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OR OTHER CONSIDERATIONS WITHDRAWAL COULD NOT BE COMPLETED ON

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OCT 19 AIR AMERICA WOULD CONTINUE AND COMPLETE THE TASK OCT 20.
BARNHISEL AGREED TO DO SO, BUT NUR ALSO ASKED FOR RESPONSE IN
WRITING.

4. FINALLY, NUR ASKED WHETHER AIR AMERICA WOULD AGREE TO
HUMANITARIAN OR MED-EVAC TYPE SERVICE AFTER STAND-DOWN IF RE-
QUIRED. BARNHISEL AGREED.

5. BARNHISEL NOTED THAT AIR AMERICA WOULD HAVE TO BEGIN TERMINA-
TIONS OF PILOTS IN ORDER TO REDUCE COSTS. THIS WOULD ALSO INVOLVE
PILOTS DEPARTING VIETNAM, SINCE PRESENT VISAS WOULD EXPIRE
UPON EXPIRATION OF EMPLOYMENT. HE NOTED THAT AIR AMERICA SEEKS TO
REDUCE COSTS IF SERVICES AND CONTRACT WERE TO BE CURTAILED.
IN EVENT ICCS SOUGHT TO RENEW CONTRACT THEREAFTER, INCREASED
COSTS COULD BE ANTICIPATED.

6. COMMENT: BARNHISEL HAS STAYED IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH HOME
OFFICE ON ALL MOVES CONNECTED WITH HIS LETTER OF OCT 10 AND
WITH ACTIONS HE MUST NOW TAKE TO CLOSE DOWN ICCS CONTRACT.
HE WAS NOT, REPEAT NOT, PARTICULARLY REASSURED BY EMBOFFS COMMENT
THAT AIR AMERICA AND OTHER CONTRACTORS SHOULD QTE HANG IN THERE
A LITTLE LONGER UNQTE. HE DID INDICATE, HOWEVER, HE WOULD
COMMUNICATE THIS INFORMATION TO HOME OFFICE AND ASK FOR FURTHER
INSTRUCTIONS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT IS REQUESTED TO COMMUNICATE STATE OF
PLAY TO AIR AMERICA HOME OFFICE WITH SUGGESTION IT INFORM
SAIGON OFFICE IN SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR TERMS OF PROSPECTS SO THAT
THREAT OF CANCELLATION OF AIR SERVICES CAN BE WITHDRAWN.

8. COMMENT: IT OUGHT TO BE CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT IF THIS WITHDRAWAL
TAKES PLACE IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THESE CITES WILL BE MANNED
AGAIN. THEREFORE, THE DRV WOULD, BY COMBINATION OF THEIR
INTRANSIGENCE AND OUR INACTION, HAVE ACCOMPLISHED NOW WHAT WE
REFUSED TO AGREE TO IN PARIS ACCORDS. THIS IS SURE WAY TO START
THE FINAL DISSOLUTION OF THE ICCS MACHINERY. WE DO NOT HERE SEE
WHAT US INTEREST IS BEING SERVED BY LETTING THIS AIR AMERICA
ACTION TAKE PLACE. THIS BEING THE 15TH IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT
ACTION BE TAKEN WITHIN THE NEXT 24 HOURS.
MARTIN
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR TRANSPORTATION, TRUCE OBSERVERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON17943
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MARTIN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731032/aaaaaxeu.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SAIGON 17889
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Sep-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <26-Nov-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ICCS: AIR SERVICES TIMETABLE
TAGS: MARR, VS, ICCS, AIR AMERICA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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